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quainted with the nature and construction of Sea Vessels experimented with the Spring Block, applied to a small pleasure boat “approved of the principles, and are of the opinion that if the Springs can be properly applied, they will increase the active elastic impetus of a Vessel’s rigging, & therefore assist in sailing, especially in turning to windward.”

1789. *Jan’y* 2. (12 present; Franklin presiding.)

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President—Franklin.

Vice Presidents—John Ewing, D.D., Wm. White, D.D., Dav. Rittenhouse.

Treasurer—Hopkinson.

Secretaries—Hutchinson, Patterson, Magaw, J. Vaughan.

Counsellors—Pettit (C.); Rush, Jones, M.D., G. Duffield, D.D.

Curators—S. Duffield, Wm. Bradford, Charles W. Peale.

Rittenhouse and Hutchinson, Committee to agree finally with Jos. Ogleby and Math. Sadler (who proposed to buy the Arch street lot) on the best terms.

1789. *Jan’y* 16. (19 present.)

Auditing Committee reported £3 · 13 · 5 specie, and £9 · 17 · 6, paper, balance due the Society in the hands of the Treasurer.

Rittenhouse’s letter to Patterson on a number of curious observations on the regularity of the motions of the heavenly bodies, read.

Humphrey’s (Jos.) letter to Rittenhouse, with a drawing of a Regulator of Pendulums, read.

Arch Street Lot Committee reported that they had agreed finally with Ogleby and Sadler, who agree to pay £525, “or do carpenters work in the building on the State House Square to the amount at their opinion; the Society

. . . . to indemnify them for all encumbrances on the said Lot & to convey it to them.”

Messrs. Clifford, Rittenhouse, and Fox and Drs. Ruston and Hutchinson were then appointed a Committee to treat with the Directors of the Library Company about renting part of the building. The President was requested to inform the Directors by letters “that the Committee have full powers to receive any proposals and finally to agree with them on the subject.”

An election of 24 new members then took place, among whom were David Reddick of the Supreme Council of Pennsylvania; the Spanish Ambassador de Gardoqui; the Rector of the Swedish Church, Dr. Collin; Chief Justice Brearly of New Jersey; the French Consul at New York, Creve-cœur; the Secretary of the Royal Society, Dr. Blagden; the famous Frieslander, Peter Camper; the German Minister of Mines, Von Heynitz; “Benj. Smith Barton, M.D., at present in Edinburgh;” the “President of Philadelphes, Cap François,” Arthand; Moreau de St. Méry, Superieur de Cap François; the President of the Spanish R. S. of History, Miguel de Flores; Dr. Charles Stuart of Edinburgh; the late Attorney-General of the United States, Patterson; Dr. Minto, Prof. Math. at Princeton; Chas. Pinckney, S. C.; Dr. Ashbel Green (who had left Princeton College to take the charge of the First Second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia); and Brissot de Warville.

1789. *Feb’y* 6. (13 present; Franklin presiding.)

The Treasurer was ordered to pay the President £25, “which he was pleased some time ago to advance to Mr. Rob. Aitkin, in the Society’s behalf in order to discharge the amount that had been presented by Mr. Glass the paper maker.”

A letter from Mr. Aitkin requesting the correction of the proof sheets of the reprint of Vol. Transactions. Franklin had already answered the letter.

A letter from the Princess of Dashkaw [*sic*], President of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg, August 30, to Franklin, thanking him for a copy of the Transactions, "in the most polite terms for this mark of his attention."

Poulson's account for printing 1000 labels and 500 blank notices (35 shil.) was passed.

The Building Committee reported a contract made "with gentlemen for supplying the necessary scantling for the building at 12 months' credit."

Dr. Foulke's oration, now ready, was made the order for February 27, in the evening, at the Hall of the University.

1789. *Feb'y* 20. (15 present ; Franklin presiding.)

A letter from Josh. Humphrey, on "correct scale beams," was read.

An extract from the minutes of the Directors of the Library Company was read. The Company had considered a letter from Franklin, and appointed a Committee "to wait on him and thank him for his friendly attentions. They request him to inform the Committee of the Philosophical Society that they are sensible of their friendly overtures; but it would not be convenient to remove the Library from the building which they occupy at present."

A letter from Don Diego de Garda acknowledging the receipt of his certificate of membership "expressed in very polite terms his sense of the honour," &c., and that "he will be happy if on any occasion he can contribute to promote the views of so laudable an institution."

A collection of curious petrifications and other fossils found in different parts of the Western countries [*sic*] was presented through Mr. Patterson by Capt. Wm. Ferguson, lately from Post Vincennes.

Observations on the Progress of Population, and the probability of the duration of human life in this country, by Mr. Wm. Barton, in a letter to Rittenhouse, were read.

1789. *Feb'y 27.*

The Society met and proceeded to the Hall of the University, where Dr. Foulke delivered the annual oration; after which the Society retired to a room and passed a vote of thanks.

Oration "On the State, Stages and Chances of the human constitution and life, and particularly supporting the chances of Longevity in North America."

1789. *March 6.* (16 present; Franklin presiding.)

Petrified shells found near Ringwood iron works, New Jersey, from Rev^d Mr. Becson, presented.*

Cox, Minto, Brearly, B. Rittenhouse acknowledged by letter the receipt of certificate of membership, "and in exceedingly polite terms, expressed their sense of the honor," &c.

Barton, Fox and J. Vaughan, appointed a Committee to treat with the Trustees of the University about renting to them the rooms of the building, reserving to the Society two south rooms.

A letter from Peter Duponceau presenting 22 Vols. of Velly, Villaret and Garnier's History of France; Pope's Essay on Man in five languages; Histoire du Commerce, 2 Vols.; Locke's Essay on Education in Russian, by Popowski; Military Ordinances of the King of Spain, 4 Vols.; Life of Don Joas de Castro, Fourth Viceroy of the Indies ("the best historian in the Portuguese language"); Select Extracts from Young's Night Thoughts in Portuguese; State Papers on the Restoration of the French Parliament in 1774; A Collection of Low Dutch Pamphlets on the late commotions in the Netherlands, 1 Vol.; Dictionary of French and Portuguese 1 Vol.; Œuvres de Thomas, de l'Acad. Française, 2 Vols. Thanks voted.

Adjourned until Wednesday evening next at 6 o'clock.

* In the next line the name is spelled *Becson*.

1789. *March 11.* (17 present; Franklin presiding.)

Report of Committees of the Society and of the University read, “particularly considered and agreed to.”

[The report is copied, from which it appears that]

D^r. James Hutchinson, M^r. Kuhl, & General Irvine, Committee on the part of the University; Messrs Vaughan, Fox & Barton, Committee on the part of the American Philosophical Society met at the University [“in 4th Street” written in lead pencil] & the Univ. Com. proposed to lease the Society’s Hall, (except two south rooms on the Second floor,) with free use of the Stairs, passages & cellars, for five years, at an annual rent of £85; “the University to provide those materials which the Phil. Soc. have not already contracted for . . . to complete the building & to make it tenantable: the same to be allowed for to the Trustees out of the rent as it becomes due; the rent to commence as soon as the house is in tenantable order; the house to be delivered up, at the expiration of the lease, in like order as received, reasonable wear & tear excepted.”

Preparation of such a lease was then ordered “under the inspection of the Committees.”

James Bringhurst was added to the Building Committee.

Aitkin’s letter of inquiry about any desired alterations in the six first sheets of Vol. I, Transactions, first edition, referred to the Secretaries. “As the work is not reprinted by order of the Society, the terms do not depend on them.”

1789. *March 20.* (9 present.)

Dr. George Buchanan, of Baltimore, sent Quesnay de Beaurepaire’s Account of the Academy of Sciences and Belles Lettres established by him at Richmond, in Virginia. [No further notice of such an Academy appears subsequently in the history, or the correspondence of the Society.]

A dissertation *Sur le moyen de conserver le papier de la piquere des insectes*, was received from M. Arthaud, Secretary of the Circle des Philadelphes at Cap François, November 21, 1788. With a list of premiums offered by the Circle.

1789. *April 3.* (21 present; “the President being absent, D^r. White took the chair.”)

“A discourse or dissertation was read by the Rev. D^r.

Collin; introduced by respectful attentions to this Society in regard particularly to his having been lately chosen a member;" "On those enquiries in Natural Philosophy which at present are most beneficial to the United States." Thanks voted.

The Committee's lease was read, considered, and "the Seal of this Corporation" ordered to be affixed.

Ed. Pole offered a model of a Silk Reel; accepted; thanks voted.

1789. *April 17.* (21 present; Franklin presiding.)

A memoir "On the effects of heat in conducting the electric fluid & explaining the phenomena of thunder, the Aurora borealis, &c.," by the late Wm. Henry of Lancaster, was read.

The Medical Society of New Haven county sent their "Cases and Observations," and desired exchange.

Mr. Le Gaux sent a series of Meteorological Observations [by him?] with the hygrometer of Mr. de Luc, at Spring Mill, 13 miles from Philadelphia, in March; also Remarks on the method of making observations, &c. The Secretaries were ordered to request their continuance.

Hopkinson and Hutchinson were made a Committee to "prepare proper Rules respecting members who are to pay admission fees, or who may be exempted—the distinguishing line is to be fixed."

Election of 9 new members then took place: La Princesse Catharine d' Aschkaw, St. Petersburg, Russia; Josh. Humphreys, Jr., and John Bleakely, of Philadelphia; John Stephens, Jr., of New Jersey; Dr. Geo. Monro, of Delaware; Dr. Geo. Buchanan, of Baltimore; Jas. Rumsey, of Virginia; Sam. Beach, of Charleston, S. C.; "Winthrop Sargent, Esq., in the New Government, Westward;" and "Don Francis de Gardoqui, and auditor of the Rota for the Crown of Castile at the Court of Rome."

1789. *May 1.* (8 present.)

Mr. T. Franklin acted in the absence of the Secretaries.

Hopkinson requested part payment of his bond.

The Building Committee (Mr. Clifford) wrote that no funds had been provided to pay for contracts made on materials and workmanship.

Both letters laid over to next meeting [but no record is to be found of what was done about these calls for money until August 21].

1789. *May 15.* (7 present.)

Mr. Bringhurst took the Chair, in the absence of President and Vice-Presidents.

St. John Crevecoeur acknowledged election to membership, and sent a book “made of the roots and barks of different plants and trees, being the first essay of the French inventor.” Thanks ordered.

“Petroleum found in Oil Creek which flows into the Allegeny” [*sic*] was presented in a phial by Mr. Patterson as from Mr. Wm. Turnbull [*sic*].

1789. *June 19.* (7 present.)

Arthur Grier’s letter from Reading, Pa., to Franklin, dated May 29, 1789, describing “A Machine invented by him for finding the Longitude by an observation of the bearing of any star in the Great Bear was read.”

John Churchman’s letter to Franklin, “requesting his encouragement & patronage in a voyage which he wishes to make to Baffin’s Bay in order to ascertain the true cause of the variation of the needle,” was read.

John Christopher Stroebel’s letter (Philadelphia), announced himself as the author of the Essay on Heat presented, at a previous meeting, for the annual premium, and requested the seal broken, and his authorship published “to encourage him in his future researches.”

1789. *July 17.* (14 present.)

Election of one new member took place: M. Le Gaux.

Dr. Rittenhouse and Dr. Jones communicated “a particular account of the effects of a flash of lightning, June 7, with drawings.”

Franklin’s portrait by Peale ordered.

“*Resolved*, That a portrait of Dr. Franklin, the president of the Society, shall, as speedily as is convenient, be executed, in the best manner,—to be perpetually kept in one of their apartments; and that Dr. Jones & Mr. Rittenhouse shall apply to Mr. Peale to prepare and execute the same.”

[The “Martin’s Franklin” in possession of the Society, is no doubt a copy made by Mr. Peale according to this order.]

1789. *August 21.* (10 present.)

Wm. Stroud’s letter [no subject mentioned] was referred to the “Committee of the Building.”

Jas. Brisbane’s letter (S. Car.) containing “calculations & statements by Lunar Observations, applied to the ascertaining of the true Longitude” was read and referred to Rittenhouse and Patterson.

Wynthrop [*sic*] Sargent, wrote from Marietta, June 25, thanking the Society for his election and communicating “Sundry Meteorological Observations.” “It appears that the changes of the weather marked by the Thermometer are sudden and extraordinary.” Referred to Rittenhouse, Patterson and Dr. Wistar.

“Said Committee are likewise to fix upon some *General Rule* to direct the observations of this kind by different persons, so that they may to the better effect be compared together.”

[The Society resolves to meet henceforth in the New Building; but does not do so until November 13th.]

“*Resolved*, That the future meetings of the Society shall be in the Philosophical Hall, unless on occasions, when the President’s health may* allow him to be present; then they shall be held in his house. Respect-

* May not? J. P. L.

ing this circumstance, the Secretary who advertises is directed to make due enquiry some day before the times of meeting."

Committee of the Building, ordered "to take legal and efficient steps towards collecting the present outstanding Sums that were subscribed to carry on that work in consequence of M^r. Clifford's representations now repeated"

Dr. Wistar's request was granted to be permitted to fix a Rain Gauge on the top of the Philosophical Hall, and to communicate from time to time the results.

1789. *Sep.* 18. (10 present ; Franklin presiding.)

At the President's house.

Franklin caused to be read Sir Wm. Jones' opinion that the Royal Society could "sue for arrears due by their members;" Minutes Royal Society February 22, 1784.

"Ordered, that the Treasurer be furnished with the same, and be directed to bring suits in the name of the Corporation; where the members refuse paying their arrears."

1789. *Oct.* 2. (6 present ; Franklin presiding.)

The Royal Irish Academy sent their Transactions Vol. I. Ordered, that the Secretaries send in acknowledgment, Transactions American Philosophical Society, Vols. I, II.

Thos. Pole, of London, sent through his brother Ed. Pole, of Philadelphia, a letter of thanks for election, and "a Description & Drawing of a remarkable Tumor which lately occurred in his practise."

Coal, white vitriol, slate, brick, burnt slate, alum, nitre, free stone, and Indian pottery lately found in a bank near Washington, were presented through Franklin by David Reddick, Esq.

P. Young's Essay on the Powers and Mechanisms of Nature, was presented through Franklin by Samuel Mather, of London.

Specimens of the Papyrus of Syracuse were presented by Franklin.

1789. Oct. 16. (10 present.)

“Observations on a substance found near the Falls of Niagara, called the Spray,” by Robt. McCaustin, M.D., in a letter to Dr. Barton.

Baron de Hupsch of Cöln, sent through J. Huiberts, of Baltimore (from Amsterdam), a pamphlet, and offer to exchange curiosities. Ordered to be translated and published.

“This was the evening for the election of new members; but there were not present a sufficient number for that purpose.”

1789. Nov. 6. (9 present.)

A Paper on Ventilation (from Franklin’s conversations with the author [not named]) read.

A small fish caught in the Delaware, with a drawing of it, presented.

Thermometric Observations at Yorktown, Va., in May, by David Jameson; also Rain Fall from 1773 to 1779; also 1785 and 1786; presented through Dr. Thornton.

Alderman Keene announced to the Society that W. Stroud, the plasterer would bring suit. The Building Committee represented his claim to be unjust; and were ordered “to enter into an amicable suit, to put an end to the business.”

Mr. Patterson requested to examine the files and report a list of papers.

“Counsellors & other officers of the Society” were appointed to meet at the *Hall* on Friday next, at 6 o’clock, P. M., to examine papers from candidates for the annual premium; and report thereon at the next meeting.

1789. Nov. 13. (*At the Hall.*) (9 councillors and officers.)

[*First regular meeting in the New Building.*]

No new papers; but some standing over from last year, “some of which, in particular, deserve notice and revision.”

1789. Nov. 21. (12 present.)

[*First regular meeting of the Society in the New Building.*]

Report of the Councillors and officers received.

“An instrument for determining the exact distance of any object, by looking at it.” A paper communicated through Mr. McKean.

“Direction how to cause a mill to go with ease by means of a large pair of Bellows.” In this paper “the method of blowing the bellows is pointed out,” by Alex. Lewis, of Colrain [*sic*] township in Lancaster county.

“The method of raising water twenty feet above the level” is described in the same paper.

Committee to select from the files and publish papers: Collin, Ewing, Rittenhouse, Barton, Patterson, Hopkinson, Ruston, Bleakley, Hutchinson, Wistar, Thornton, Magaw.

Rediger, the Janitor’s account £17 · 17 · 10 passed.

“German passengers who arrived in the Port of Philadelphia from Aug. 19, 1729 to Oct. 1, 1789”—an accurate account taken from the original documents—by Peter Miller Esq., of Philadelphia, communicated through Dr. Magaw.

1789. Dec. 4. (10 present.)

Essays for the annual premium recommitted to the councillors and officers “who are to *review* them all carefully, and make report at the next stated meeting, of those discoveries, inventions or improvements, which they may determine *most* worthy of notice.”

1789. Dec. 19. (13 present.)

[M. Le Gaux from Spring Mill, was present for the first time since his election in July.]

The Council and Officers reported that the “piece on the ‘Invention of the Spring Block,’ and also two pieces ‘on the production of Steam’ (X, Y, & Retrograde) deserve, at present, the Society’s special notice.” It was then

“*Resolved*, With respect to the Invention of the Spring Block, that the

Society do not yet proceed to a final adjudication ; but have the matter on the same ground which was specified at the meeting Dec. 21, 1787, & again recognized & farther explained at the meeting of Dec. 19, 1788."

"*Resolved*, With respect to the other pieces, agreeably to the 6th and 9th conditions for awarding the premiums, that they shall yet remain under consideration."

Churchman's printed "Address to different Societies, &c." was presented.

John Vaughan presented as from Samuel Vaughan, Jr., "sundry Philosophical curiosities," viz :

A complete statistical almanack [*sic*] of St. Domingo, on one sheet of pasteboard ; West India *Quinquina* "not so good for fever as *Red Bark* ;—Cinnamon from Jamaica, as strong as that from the East Indies ;—Bread-fruit (Pain de Singe ; Jack bread fruit) from the Isle of France ; its shell, & seeds ;—A goose quill with two feathers.

Committee of filed papers reported.

1790. Jan. 1. (17 present.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President—Benjamin Franklin.

Vice-President—Rittenhouse, Ewing, Smith.

Councillors—McKean, Blackwell, W. Barton, Gray.

Curators—S. Duffield, Peale, B. S. Barton.

Secretaries—Hutchinson, Magaw, Patterson, J. Vaughan.

Treasurer—Hopkinson.

"Some difficulty having arisen, in the course of this election, concerning the construction to be put, in certain cases, upon the latter clause of the Law which respects the '*Manner of electing the officers* ;'

"It was moved & seconded that according to the Constitution of the Society, a Majority of the votes of the members present is necessary to constitute the election of officers :

"This motion passed in the Negative."

[Explanation of this vote is wanting.]